

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on January 20, 2006, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire April 20, 2006. A one-month extension, extending the period of response until May 20, 2006, is requested in a petition filed herewith.

Drawings

Fig. 15 is amended and submitted under a separate corrected drawings submission document, filed herewith.

Fig. 15 is amended to correspond to the description on page 10, line 29 to page 11, line 18 of Applicants' specification. Namely, the "new parameter" discussed in these paragraphs is clearly "Dcd3" (page 10, line 29), which is imported into a new table (page 10, line 29 to page 11, line 8). The new parameter (Dcd3) is then associated with a new folder "DefectClassData" (page 11, line 13-14), which is then displayed as indicated in Fig. 15. Thus, the lowermost block of Fig. 15 was clearly filed in error with "Dcd2" inadvertently listed instead of "Dcd3". The corrected drawing filed herewith therefore does not add any new matter.

Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 112, and Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) over US Patent No. 5,950,190 (Yeager).

In the current paper, Claims 1 and 9 are amended. No new matter is entered. In view of these amendments and the

following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections.

Objections and Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Claims 1 and 9 are objected to and rejected under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs.

Claim 9 is amended on lines 8, 10, 15 and 23 in response to the objection raised at the top of page 6 of the Office Action, and in response to the first rejection raised under 35 USC 112, second paragraph (page 7). No new matter is entered.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to delete the "responsive to..." language entered in the Amendment dated November 2, 2005, thereby obviating the rejections raised under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs. No new matter is entered.

For the above reasons, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections under 35 USC 112.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yeager, or alternatively under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeager.

Claim 1 is amended to recite (in pertinent part):

"...wherein said data importer... creates a new table having said one of said related groups as references and fields corresponding to said new parameters, appends data associated with new parameters to said new table created for said new parameters, and updates said data dictionary to include said identifications and information of said new table and new parameters, whereby said updated information

includes identification of both of said one or more existing tables and said new table."

Support for "creates a new table" is found, for example, in Fig. 4 (block 409) and on page 9, lines 8-17 and page 10, line 29 to page 11, line 18 of applicants' specification. Support for "whereby said updated information includes identification of both of said one or more existing tables and said new table" is found on page 9, lines 14-18, page 11, lines 5-18, and in Fig. 15 (as amended herein).

As amended, Claim 1 is distinguished over Yeager because Yeager fails to teach or suggest a data importer that "creates a new table...appends data associated with new parameters to said new table...and updates said data dictionary to include said identifications and information of said new table and new parameters, whereby said updated information includes identification of both of said one or more existing tables and said new table", as recited in Claim 1. Instead, as previously pointed out, Yeager does not teach a data importer that appends data associated with new parameters to a table created for the new parameters. Instead, Yeager teaches that when a column identifier is detected that is not in an existing table, a user is asked to decide whether to create a new column in the existing table or ignore the data. See Col. 27, line 14-27. The effect of adding a new column to an existing table is diagrammatically shown below.

1) An existing "Table 1" includes data for wafers W1 and W2 includes DefectClass (DefC) reference data DC1a and DC1B having parameter data Dcd1a-Dcd1d for parameter Dcd1, and parameter data Dcd2a-Dcd2d for parameter Dcd2:

Table 1

Wafer	DefC	Dcd1	Dcd2
W1	DC1a	Dcd1a	Dcd2a
W1	DC1b	Dcd1b	Dcd2b
W2	DC1a	Dcd1c	Dcd2c
W2	DC1b	Dcd1d	Dcd2d

2) An new input file for wafer W2 is received by the data importer that includes a third defect class DC1c having three parameter data values (Dcd1e, Dcd2e and Dcd2e):

New Input file

Wafer	DefC	Dcd1	Dcd2	Dcd3
W2	DC1c	Dcd1e	Dcd2e	Dcd3e

3) According to Yeager's solution, the existing Table 1 is modified to include a new column "Dcd3" to include the "new" (third) data field:

Yeager's solution

New column


Wafer	DefC	Dcd1	Dcd2	Dcd3
W1	DC1a	Dcd1a	Dcd2a	--1--
W1	DC1b	Dcd1b	Dcd2b	--2--
W2	DC1a	Dcd1c	Dcd2c	--3--
W2	DC1b	Dcd1d	Dcd2d	--4--
W2	DC1c	Dcd1e	Dcd2e	Dcd3e

Unused
memory

As indicated at the right side of the figure above, Yeager's column solution generates reserved memory locations "--1--" to "--4--" in the new column "Dcd3" that remain unused, but nonetheless can take up a significant amount of storage space.

4) In contrast to Yeager's "new column" solution, Claim 1 recites creating "a new table having said one of said related groups as references and fields corresponding to said new parameters" and appending "data associated with new parameters to said new table created for said new parameters". This solution is depicted below, which includes existing Table 1 updated to include the parameter values "Dcd1e" and "Dcd2e", and new Table 2 that includes reference values "W2", "DC1c" and parameter value "Dcd3e":

Table 1				Table 2		
Wafer	DefC	Dcd1	Dcd2	Wafer	DefC	Dcd3
W1	DC1a	Dcd1a	Dcd2a	W5	DC1e	Dcd3e
W2	DC1b	Dcd1b	Dcd2b			
W3	DC1c	Dcd1c	Dcd2c			
W4	DC1d	Dcd1d	Dcd2d			
W5	DC1e	Dcd1e	Dcd2e			



 New table

The benefit of the above arrangement is that, unlike the Yeager "new column" solution depicted above, the new table solution of the present invention avoids unused memory space.

5) To clarify that the resulting database includes both Table 1 and Table 2, Claim 1 is further amended to recite that the data importer "updates said data dictionary to include said identifications and information of said new table and new parameters, whereby said updated information includes identification of both of said one or more existing tables and said new table". As described on page 11, lines 9-18, with the data dictionary updated in this manner, the "New Parameters" data is shown to the end-user, for example, in the manner depicted in Fig. 15 (amended):

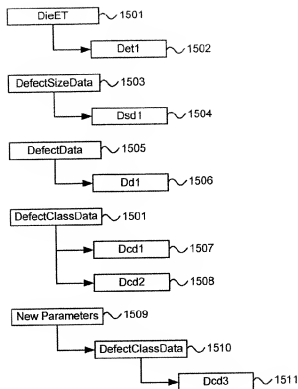


FIG.15

Due to the difference between Yeager's "new column" approach and the "new table" approach recited in Claim 1 that are set forth in the example provided above, and because Yeager fails to teach or suggest using anything but the "new column" approach, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to modify Yeager to produce the system recited in Claim 1.

Claims 2-8 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore distinguished over Yeager for at least the reasons described above with reference to Claim 1.

Similar to Claim 1, Claim 9 is amended to recite "creating a new table having said related groups of tables as references and fields corresponding to said new parameters; importing a remaining portion of said input

data associated with said set of new parameters to a new table created for said new parameters; and updating information in said data dictionary to include identifications and information of said new table and said new parameters, whereby said updated information includes identification of both of said one or more existing tables and said new table." As such, Claim 9 is believed to be distinguished over Yeager for reasons similar to those described above with reference to Claim 1.

Claim 10 is dependent from Claim 9, and is therefore distinguished over Yeager for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102 and/or 103.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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